

The Carer Assessment of medication management guidance for people living with dementia at Hospital discharge (CATCH): A national cross-sectional survey

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BACKGROUND

- People living with dementia experience frequent hospitalizations due to medication-related problems.
- Carers play a central role in ensuring safe use of medications, especially at discharge.
- There is a lack of insight into what guidance is provided to carers at discharge.
- We recently developed a tool to evaluate medication management guidance provided to carers of people with dementia at discharge, known as the CATCH tool¹.

AIM

To distribute the CATCH tool to evaluate the medication guidance provided to carers of people with dementia at discharge and provide preliminary validation on the CATCH tool

METHODS

Study Design

- A cross-sectional survey of the CATCH tool was conducted across Australia

Participant Eligibility

- Carers of people living with dementia who have had experience with the hospital discharge process

Data Collection

- Electronic and hardcopy distribution of the CATCH tool via organisations, e.g StepUP for Dementia Research, Dementia Australia.

Data Analysis

- Descriptively analysed survey results and Exploratory factor analysis (EFA)
- Multiple linear regression was performed on the individual items

RESULTS

- A total of 185 participants were enrolled in the study. Most guidance on day of discharge (69%), was given by a physician (56%) and usually face-to-face (60%).
- **Figure 1** outlines the most reported medication information that was not well provided to carers at discharge.
- The results of the exploratory factor analysis (EFA) loaded the items onto the 2 factors (**Table 1**).
- Guidance on the safe use of medicines contributed to increased carer confidence to manage medications post-discharge and satisfaction (**Table 2**).

Figure 1: How well was the following medication management advice given to carers?

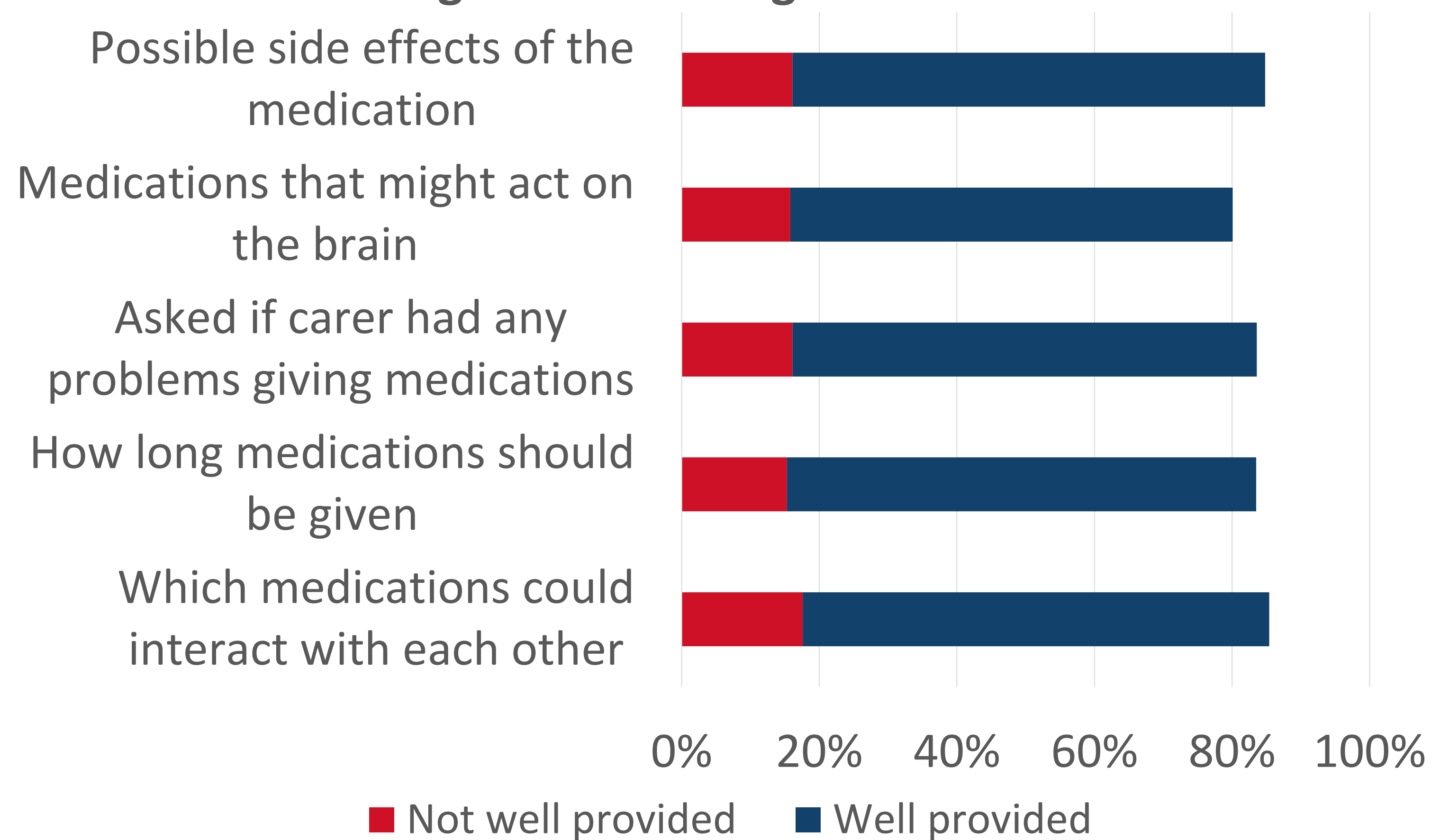


Table 1. Factor	No. items loaded	Range of factor loadings
Factor 1. Safe use of medications	16	0.471 - 0.926
Factor 2. Ease of carer understanding	4	0.484 - 0.824

Table 2. Regression table of the two factors against the three global scores	Satisfied	Confident
Guidance on the safe use of medicines	0.54 (0.00)*	0.46 (0.00)*
Ease of carer understanding	0.21 (0.00)*	0.24 (0.00)*
R ²	0.52	0.42
Model P-Value	0.00	0.00
F-Statistic	76.55	52.77

CONCLUSION

- Findings suggest that there are opportunities to improve guidance in medication therapy management provided to carers at discharge. Targets for interventions around comprehensive guidance in medication management for the people with dementia are needed to improve carer confidence. Exploring the underlying variables of the CATCH tool is the first step to validating an instrument that evaluates the medication guidance provided to carers of people with dementia at discharge.